

Senate Study Bill 3138 - Introduced

SENATE/HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION BILL)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to private college preparatory schools exempted
2 from the state's educational standards and accreditation
3 process, and including effective date provisions.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.11, subsection 13, Code Supplement
2 2009, is amended to read as follows:

3 13. a. Notwithstanding subsections 1 through 12 and as
4 an exception to their requirements, a private high school or
5 private combined junior-senior high school operated for the
6 express purpose of teaching a program designed to qualify
7 its graduates for matriculation at accredited four-year or
8 equivalent liberal arts, scientific, or technological colleges
9 or universities shall be placed on a special accredited list
10 of college preparatory schools, which list shall signify
11 accreditation of the school for that express purpose only, if:

12 ~~a.~~ (1) The school complies with minimum standards
13 established by the Code other than this section, and rules
14 adopted under the Code, applicable to:

15 (1) (a) Courses comprising the limited program.

16 (2) (b) Health requirements for personnel.

17 (3) (c) Plant facilities.

18 (4) (d) Other environmental factors affecting the
19 programs.

20 ~~b.~~ (2) At least eighty percent of those graduating from the
21 school within the four most recent calendar years, other than
22 those graduating who are aliens, graduates entering military
23 or alternative civilian service, or graduates deceased or
24 incapacitated before college acceptance, have been accepted by
25 accredited four-year or equivalent liberal arts, scientific, or
26 technological colleges or universities.

27 ~~c.~~ b. A school claiming to be a private college preparatory
28 school which fails to comply with the requirement of paragraph
29 ~~"b"~~ of this subsection "a", subparagraph (2), shall be placed
30 on the special accredited list of college preparatory schools
31 probationally if the school complies with the requirements
32 of paragraph ~~"a"~~ of this subsection, subparagraph (1), but a
33 probational accreditation shall not continue for more than four
34 successive years.

35 c. The state board shall not add to the special accredited

1 list of college preparatory schools after the effective date
2 of this Act. Only schools placed on the special accredited
3 list on or before the effective date of this Act that continue
4 to meet the criteria of this subsection shall remain on the
5 special accredited list after the effective date of this Act.

6 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE UPON ENACTMENT. This Act, being deemed of
7 immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

8 EXPLANATION

9 This bill restricts the state board of education from adding
10 to the special accredited list of college preparatory schools
11 after the effective date of the bill.

12 Currently, a private high school or private combined
13 junior-senior high school that exists to qualify its graduates
14 for matriculation at accredited four-year colleges or
15 universities is placed on a special accredited list of college
16 preparatory schools by the state board and is exempt from the
17 educational standards for accreditation specified in Code
18 section 256.11, subsections 1 through 12. The schools on the
19 list must comply with minimum standards established in statute
20 and administrative rules applicable to courses comprising the
21 limited program, health requirements for personnel, plant
22 facilities, and other environmental factors affecting the
23 programs; and at least 80 percent of those graduating from the
24 school within the four most recent calendar years, with few
25 exceptions, must have been accepted by accredited four-year
26 colleges or universities.

27 Under the bill, only schools placed on the list on or before
28 the effective date of the bill, that continue to meet the
29 criteria established in the Code, may remain on the list after
30 that date.

31 The bill takes effect upon enactment, which is generally the
32 date of approval by the governor.